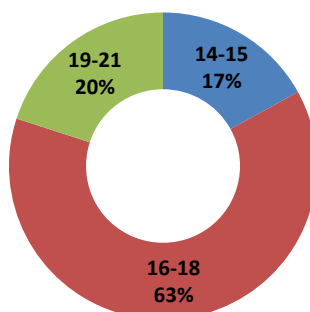


YouthWorks

Teen employment in Massachusetts has declined from 54% in 1999 to 27% in 2013. In order to help young people gain the skills and experience necessary to put them on a career pathway, Commonwealth Corporation administers the YouthWorks program. YouthWorks is a state-funded program that supports summer and year-round employment for low-income teens and young adults in 31 cities with the highest share of youth living in households at or below the poverty rate. In the summer of 2014, more than 5,000 young people worked in subsidized or partially subsidized employment through YouthWorks. In addition, Commonwealth Corporation developed a hands-on competency based work readiness curriculum called Signaling Success built on research conducted with employers to understand their perceptions of teens' work readiness and job seeking skills. In the summer of 2014, we required all YouthWorks programs to provide 15 hours of Signaling Success training and each participant created a portfolio that included a resume, short-term and long-term career goals and next steps in finding unsubsidized employment.

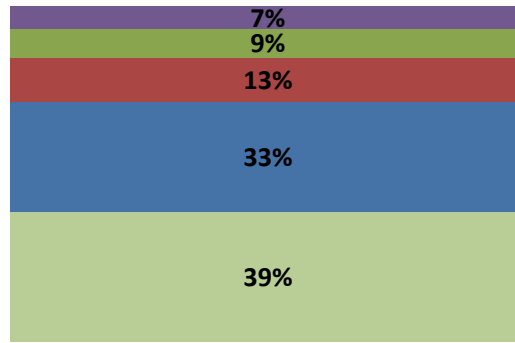
- Since 2007, more than 36,000 young people in Massachusetts have gained job experience through YouthWorks.

Age Range of YouthWorks Participants, 2009-2013



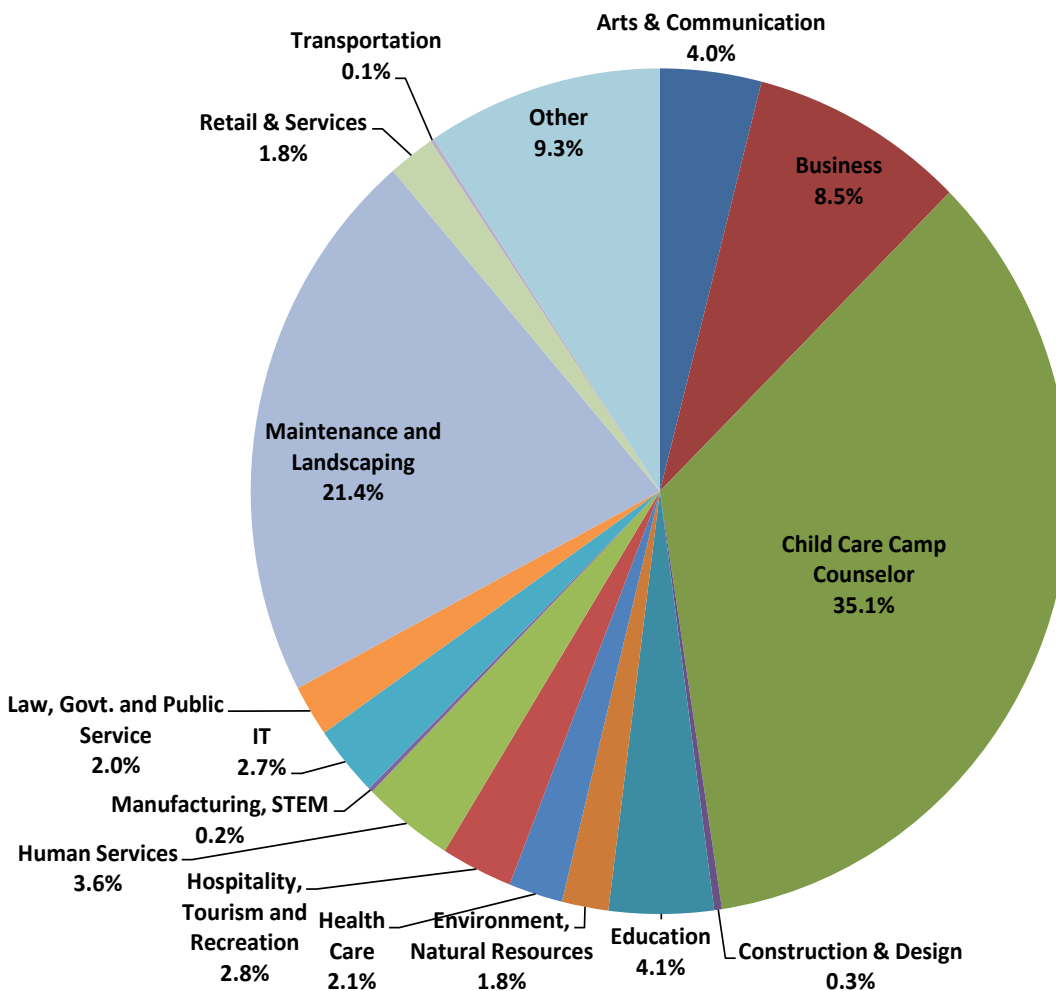
Mary Vigeant, President and Founder of Precision Textile Color, provided three Brockton teens with a unique work challenge: prepare fabric sample books with 4,500 different colors to sell to design teams at mainstream brands such as Coach, Ann Taylor, and Macy's. "This task would have overwhelmed me without the help of the YouthWorks program run by the Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board. The teens got so much done and they were so well trained—came in with great attitudes and always on time." YouthWorks participants Jennifer Alves, Alyssa Ward, and Melyssa Ward got a crash course in entrepreneurship working under Vigeant's guidance. "Mary's always telling us to start our own businesses. She's told me that if I learn how to integrate systems with Quickbooks –she'll hire me when I finish college" said Jennifer who plans to study bookkeeping and accounting at Quinsigamond Community College.

Race/Ethnicity of YouthWorks Participants, 2007-2013



■ Black ■ Hispanic ■ White ■ Asian ■ All Other

- YouthWorks participants are placed in job opportunities in a variety of industries. Since 2007, young people have been placed in the following industries:



- YouthWorks Partners are asked to target 20% of their job opportunities for vulnerable youth who include young people who are either court involved, committed to DYS, homeless, or aged out (or close to aging out) of foster care. In 2013, 826 vulnerable youth participated in YouthWorks.

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